

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd December 2021 at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms on Elin Way.

Present: Cllr R Goddin- Chairman (**RG**), Cllr RASearles- Vice Chairman (**RAS**), Cllr J Fallon (**JF**), Cllr R James (R.J), Cllr C A Land (**CAL**), Cllr N Pellatt (**NP**), Cllr A Young (**AY**)

In attendance: Mrs J Damant (Clerk)

- 173/12/21** **To receive any apologies for absence:** (LGA 1972 sch 12 para 40) – Quorate is one third but no less than 3 members (LGA 1972 sch 12 para 45)
Cllr Garner sent his apologies (work commitments) these were accepted and agreed by the Council.
- 174/12/21** **Pecuniary Interests:** Councilor's to disclose any Pecuniary Interests (disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) include interests held by a member's spouse, civil partner or similar) in any item listed on the agenda.
There were no interests declared.
- 175/12/21** **Public Participation:** If a member of the public wishes to make any comments or raise any questions under Standing Order 3(e), about an item on the Agenda the Council would prefer this to be done by an email or letter with the script of their comments and questions being sent to the Clerk in advance of the meeting. A member of the public may alternatively make a verbal statement during this part of the meeting. Priority will be given to any such email or letter and it will be read out by the Clerk, subject to the time limits stated in the Council's Standing Orders. These consist of a limit of 15 minutes in total (which will apply to the total of both written and verbal contributions) and an individual limit of three minutes per item of either type.
There were no members of the public in attendance.
- 176/12/21** **To Approve and Sign Minutes of Meeting held on 4th November 2021:**
The minutes were proposed by Cllr Land, seconded by Cllr Fallon and agreed by all. The Chairman then signed them as a true record.
- 177/11/21** **Councillor Vacancy:**
The notice to the Monitoring Officer at SCDC has been completed and the Parish Council now have permission to coopt a councillor. Notice has been put on the notice board and will appear in Meldreth Matters, the deadline for submissions is Friday 17th December 2021.
- 178/12/21** **Planning: (Town and Country Planning act 1990 sch 1, para 8)**
(Full planning Minutes are available via the clerk, website or notice board)
- 179/12/21** **District and County Reports: (Cllrs van de Ven, Hales and Hart) Report circulated**
Cllr Goddin reminded the Parish Council that the report they are presented with may not be the same report that is submitted to Meldreth Matters. This is purely a timing issue and that the Local Authority Councillors' may have a more updated report by the time they submit their report to Meldreth Matters. The Parish Council can only report on what they are presented with at the meeting. It would seem that some residents were not aware of this and therefore raised a concern that the Parish Council are not reporting SCDC and CCC issues correctly and this is not the case. County Councillor van de Ven informed the Parish Council of possibly grants, these however are more suited to organisations within the community and it would be best that Cllr van de Ven include this in the report that is submitted to Meldreth Matters.
There were no other issues raised with regards to the submitted report.
- 180/12/21** **Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Consultation deadline 13/12/21**
Cllr James and Cllr Searles attended the zoom meeting. Cllr James reported that he has looked at the report and attended the latest zoom meeting. The report states that it would like Cambridge to be a low carbon emission zone and the questions within this report supported that thinking. It talks about cycle routes and less cars but there does not appear to be a logical plan to achieve this. The car is seen to be not needed and that villagers will have one hour bus service but there is no time scale as to when this will be implemented, not a reduction in bus travel costs. Will there be charges for electric vehicles or motorcycles?

The report mentions a penalty charge for fossil fuel but nothing is mentioned about electric vehicles so the overall number of cars traveling into the city may not be reduced.

Cllr Goddin enquired if the full council would like to make a response to this report. Cllr James agreed to put a draft reply together and send to all members of the Parish Council, if they are in agreement then a response will be sent. It was proposed by Cllr Goddin that Cllr James prepare a response and circulate to all members of the council, this was seconded by Cllr Young and agreed by all.

Action: RJ/Full Council

Cllr Goddin also reported that major local planning issues which include, the Greater Cambridge Local Plan; the possible "Thakeham" development and the Oxford Cambridge Arc and that the Council continues to have severe reservations about the possible relationships between these various proposals and how they do not seem to be coherent with each other.

The current consultation about the proposals to restrict vehicle traffic in the City of Cambridge. As already agreed the Parish Council will respond to this consultation by the due date of the 13th December 2021, but is concerned that the proposals give undue weight to the City and inadequate reference to the needs of outlying communities such as Meldreth where by reason of inadequate bus services and distance the ability to drive by car into the City is an essential requirement. These issues are shared by other villages in the district and the Council would like to feel that our District and County representatives will fully support the reservations that we and other villages will be raising about this latest proposal.

Cllr Searles reported that the summary of the Local Plan includes 41,000 new dwellings of which all will be built in already existing centres, of which there are a couple in Meldreth. They also mention that 40% will be affordable but were unable to answer the question of what 'affordable' meant. No new dwelling will be able to connect to a gas supply. There were 120 different reports of which the majority were submitted by Consultees and based heavily on biodiversity.

Cllr Young would like to know what our local authority representatives' views are on this and proposed that the Parish Council write to each of them asking them what their views are on this, Cllr Goddin seconded and it was agreed by all.

Clerk to write to Councillor van de Ven, Cllr Hales and Cllr Hart

Action: Clerk

181/12/21

Proposal for 25k houses in the local area by Thakeham Developer (Standard item)

There has been no further information submitted to the Parish Council. Thakeham have still not submitted any proposal to SCDC.

182/12/21

Oxford-Cambridgeshire Arc Consultation:

Cllr James reported that there has been 3,500 responses to the consultation but there had also been 4,500 responses received from the 'Stop the Arc' consultation.

183/12/21

Covid-19: (standard item)

At present there are 1,000 per 100,000 covid cases which shows that it is increasing. LocalMCCS arrangements remain in place for those in need of assistance. With a significant increase in Covid cases in our area, all residents are recommended to exercise prudence and caution, especially in view of the uncertainty surrounding the Omicron variant

184/12/21

Cooption of New Councillor:

Already covered in item 177/10/21

185/12/21

Flambards:

Cllr Goddin reported that, as yet there has been no meeting between the Flambards Residents Association (FRA) and the Parish Council (PC) to discuss the possible repairs needed to the broken concrete surface areas; for which FRA in accordance with the lease, are responsible for. Or alternatively its removal from the amenity area. All the concrete patches are included in the lease and are therefore the responsibility of the FRA, which would include maintenance. This matter has been going on for too long and needs to be addressed especially if FRA believe there is a risk matter. Due to the lease FRA have a legal responsibility to have these areas repaired, it is not down to the Parish Council. The lease was specifically drawn up so that the costs of this area would not fall on all Meldreth residents as it only benefits a few. It may be time to change the constitution.

Action: RG

186/12/21

Recreation Ground: Recreation Ground Working Group (RGWG)

- November's inspection report from Cllr Fallon was circulated. There are no matters.
- Clerk has contacted Sovereign with regards to laying extra matting down either side of the existing matting of the zip wire. The cost for this is £1,729.83. It was suggested that the Clerk enquire with MrSkuse to see if he would be able to carry out the work. **Action: Clerk**

- Clerk has received a quote from Sovereign for the repairs to the zip wire for £329.00. It was proposed by Cllr Young to accept, seconded by Cllr Fallon and agreed by all.
Action: Clerk
- Two litter bins have been ordered; clerk has asked Mr Skuce if you can fit them.
- One bench has been ordered, this will be placed at the corner of Howard and Whitecroft Road.
- Clerk has contacted HAGS with regards to placing another gate near the hopscotch and have a new closing fitted on the existing small gate so it will self-close. Awaiting costs.
- Clerk has received one quote for a seesaw, awaiting two more. The Recreation working group have also looked into a table tennis table to be placed within the recreation ground. Clerk will put all quotes together so that a decision can be made at the January meeting for a see-saw and a table-tennis table.
Action: Clerk
- Skateboard Ramp – This will be kept in consideration. The MUGA needs to be decided on with regards to where it will go, the funding for the MUGA is part of the S106 for 79 High Street development. Once a decision on where this is to be placed will then allow the Recreation Working Group see where, if possible, a skateboard ramp could be fitted.
- The Clerk has received correspondence from a resident who was concerned about the swing basket in the recreation ground. The swing basket seat had been twisted and it was therefore unstable. Hags representative's came out and untwisted the basket, however the equipment is still taped off as it was felt that at this moment it was safe to allow it to be used. The Parish Council are not able to have a continuous surveillance on the equipment and if this can be done easily it may need to be removed. Further enquiries are being sought with the company.
Action: Clerk/RGWG

187/12/21

Traffic Working Group: (TWG)

- Traffic survey has been carried out and has been forwarded to the Traffic Working Group. There has been no response from the TWG.
- Clerk to contact Mrs Gilmore to enquire if she still wishes to be part of the working group. Cllr Young agreed to join the group. The group now consists of Cllr Land, Cllr Young, Mrs Gilmore, Mr McPhee and Mr Remnant. With the stepping down of Cllr Gilmore another Chairman needs to be found within the group.
Action: Clerk

188/12/21

Village Infrastructure:

- The cable that is overhanging footpath (8) is an electric cable. To be noted, this is not an electric cable it is a StayWire, this holds the telegraph pole, with has the electric cable, in position. Clerk has contacted the electricity company who do not see a reason to move the StayWire as it has been there for 10 years, Clerk has contact Highways to see if the barriers to the footpath could be moved a fraction, awaiting a response.
Action: Clerk
- Repairs to street signs for Whitecroft Road at the Fenny Lane crossroads and the High Street have been reported and are on the work list for SCDC.
- Ownership of verges in the village: The verge at Flambards has now been confirmed by Highways to be their responsibility. The verge on the opposite side of the High Street running towards the war memorial is still under investigation. Clerk is trying to find out who maintains this area, ie cuts it and who owns it. There are also self-planting trees which may need some attention in the future.
Action: Clerk

189/12/21

Churchyard Projects

- Installation of bench. This is on hold until a Risk Assessment has been carried out.
- An acceptance letter for a H&S inspection has been sent out to Ligas who will carry this out at a cost of £285.00. Once the findings of the Risk Assessment have been received then matters relating to the placement of the bench and other issues such as the church wall will be reopened for discussion.
Action: RG/RJ/Clerk

190/12/21

Remembrance Day:

It appears that the day went well and the refreshments that were laid on at the village hall were, once again, a great success and enjoyed by everyone who attended. Clerk has not had the receipts for the refreshments and the hiring of the hall will be added to the Parish Council's account. Council would like to thank all the volunteers who gave their time in putting on this event.

- 191/12/21 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
Possible additional items if received after the agenda notice.
- Finger posts – An article has been placed in Meldreth Matters
 - Clerk is still trying to find a solution to the foliage which is overgrowing the fence along the Recreation Ground. The fence in question is not a responsibility of the Parish Council, however they are aware that if the foliage is cut back or removed the fence may not be strong enough to stand.
 - Clerk has informed the Local Authority representatives of the concern regarding the layby in Whitecroft Road.
 - Grass cutting grant has been completed.

- 192/12/21 Queen's Jubilee 2022:**
The Jubilee celebrations will take place in June 2022. The Parish Council will look into this at a later date. Clerk reported that, as yet, nothing has been received from anyone who would like to put an event on.
Jubilee Tree – Cllr Young will take a look at this and inform the Clerk as to what and where a tree could be planted.
Action: AY

- 193/12/21 Rail Users Group:**
It was proposed by Cllr Land to continue to support this with a donation of £700, this was seconded by Cllr Searles and agreed by all. This donation will come out of the main accounts.

- 193/12/21 Precept 2022-2023:**
Cllrs Goddin, Garner, Clerk and Assistant Clerk have been working on the budget for the next financial year. Figures will be circulated prior to next month's meeting so that they can be agreed. Projects such as the churchyard wall are being included and a decision on what fund this should come out of, community benefit or main accounts.
Possible Projects for 2022/23: Elections, churchwall, general costs, MUGA, LHI

- 194/12/21 Finances and payments: November 2021**
To receive details of cheques/bacs to be drawn on the Parish Council's account as detailed or amended by late payments. To approve payments.
LGA Local Government Act; TCA Telecommunications Act; OSA Open Spaces Act; PHA Public Health Act; PCA Parish Council Act; RTRA Road Traffic Regulations Act.
- HAGS payment: The original amount agreed as of item 081/07/21 was incorrect (gross 22261.57 vat £3725.65, net £18535.93) It actually came it at (gross £19140.00, vat £3190.00, net £15950.00) giving a saving of £2585.29.
As the basket swing is, not safe to use at the moment, it was agreed by all to not pay this until the basket swing situation can be rectified.

PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION –MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 2nd December 2021

Payee	Amount £	Vat £	Description	Power
Salaries, HMRC, Pension	Confidential	0	Employees payments for November 2021	LGA 1972 s112
Haven Power	£28.74	£1.45	Street lighting power November 2021	PCA 1957 s3
E-On	£18.21	£0.91	Pavilion electricity	LGA 1972 s143
DP Garden Services	£721.66	0	Grass cutting November 2021	OSA 1906 s9/10
British Telecom	£334.70	£55.78	Office telephone and Broadband	LGA 1972 s133
CBS Office Solutions	£390.30	£65.05	Office Chair	LGA 1972 s133
Buchans Landscapes	£492.00	£82.00	Works to ditch and trees	OSA 1906 s9/10
Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme	£600.00	0	Scheme membership Sept 21-March 22	LGA 1972 s137
Meldreth, Melbourn, Shepreth and Foxton Community Interest Company	£700.00	0	Contribution for the year ending March 2022 in respect for Rail Administrator	S137
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HAGS	£19140.00	£3190.00	Disabled play equipment (withheld)	OSA 1906 s9/10
J Damant	£8.60	£1.33	Postage and 2022 diary	LGA 1972 s133

50% of the office chair to be reclaimed from Orwell Parish Council £162.63, Meldreth will reclaim the vat. Payments were proposed by Cllr Land, seconded by Cllr Fallon and agreed by all.

195/12/21 Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Goddin

Cllr Garner, who was absent tonight, had reported to Cllr Goddin that the Primary School had almost raised all the required funds, but they have a shortfall of £1500. The Parish Council have already agreed an amount of £2500.00 but it was also agreed under item 143/10/21 that further assistance may be given if needed. This would give a total of £4000.00 in total. A further application needs to be completed for the £1500.00.

To be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr Goddin asked if the Clerk can ask James Fisher at SCDC if they have any update on the proposed cycle racks that are to be placed outside the village hall.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Young

Does the Clerk know when the new notice boards are due to be received? Clerk will make enquiries.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Searles

Has had a fall along the footway along North End, this was caused by the tree roots that have buckled the tarmac of the footway causing it to be unsafe underfoot. The footway is also not wide enough for wheelchairs. The injuries were quite significant and SCDC have been reported. It was suggested that the Clerk also write to SCDC. Cllr Searles will forward photographs of his injuries which can be included in the letter.

Action: RAS/Clerk

Cllr Fallon

Has had reports of rats entering a property along Bell Close that abuts the ditch. The ditch in question is cleared by SCDC and runs from next to the recreation ground towards Gables Close. Clerk to enquire when this ditch is due to be cleared, the ditch at the back of the recreation ground which is the responsibility of the Parish Council has already been cleared. Maintenance of the ditches helps with controlling vermin. Cllr Pellett, who's property is in this area also reported that there is an increase in rat activity which is due to the warm weather and no cold spells. Clerk will contact the Housing Officer at SCDC.

Action: Clerk

195/12/21 Agenda Items next meeting:

Cooptation of new councillor

Precept

Swimming pool fund-raising

Jubilee Tree

Consultations: Greater Cambridgeshire Local Plan; Thakeham; Oxford/Camb Arc

Churchyard risk assessment – wall and bench

Finger Post opposite the stocks

Recreation Ground – play equipment, disabled basket swing, seesaw, table tennis.

Traffic Working Group

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm. The next meeting is scheduled for the 6th January 2021.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

For the avoidance of doubt the only legally acceptable version of the Minutes of Orwell Parish Council are those signed in Public Meetings by the Chairman. They are available for public inspection from the Clerk